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PAGE 2

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Intelligence Sources and Methods

REPORT CLASS SECRET WNINTEL

COUNTRY: [REDACTED] ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: DELIVERY TO [REDACTED] OF MONTONERO LETTER REQUESTING DIRECT
TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1. ON 31 MAY 1978 COMMANDANTE HORACIO ALBERTO
MENDIZABAL, FOURTH SECRETARY OF THE MONTONERO PARTY
AND CHIEF OF THE MONTONERO ARMY, SENT A NINE-PAGE LETTER DATED

25 MAY 1978 TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE LETTER, SIGNED BY MARIO
EDUARDO FIRMENICH, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE MONTONERO
PARTY: SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MONTONERO PERONIST MOVEMENT; AND
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE MONTONERO ARMY, WAS TO BE FORWARDED BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF [REDACTED] TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
DURING HIS [REDACTED] VISIT [REDACTED] THE LETTER POINTS OUT
THE MONTONERO POSITION AND ASKS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

ARGENTINA EO25x1

PAGE 3

 SECRET

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1)
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Methods

STATES FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR EXPLANATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE MONTONEROS AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE END PURPOSE BEING THE SOLUTION OF THE "SITUATION" IN ARGENTINA.

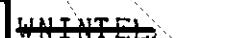
2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] HE HAS NOT INFORMED CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT [REDACTED] OF THE LETTER'S ARRIVAL NOR HAS HE INFORMED [REDACTED] OF THE MEETINGS HE HAS HAD WITH THE MONTONEROS. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MONTONEROS' TRIP TO [REDACTED] TO SEEK [REDACTED] SUPPORT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND THE MONTONEROS.)

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REPORT CLASS SECRET-WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

PAGE 4

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OVERHEAD

MATTERS

REC-19
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109-12-201-335

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56
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109-12-201-335

PAGE 2

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REPORT CLASS - ~~SECRET~~ - ~~WNINTEL~~.

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT:

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP)

~~THE PEOPLE'S~~

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1. THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) IS USING SUPPORT GROUPS (GRUPOS DE APOYO) CONSISTING OF 15 MEMBERS AND DIVIDED INT SUB-GROUPS OF THREE MEMBERS EACH, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AT PRESENT, TWO GROUPS ARE FUNCTIONING AND A THIRD IS BEING FORMED. THE SUBGROUPS HAVE A CHIEF AND TWO OTHER MEMBERS BUT DO NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER. THE CHIEF OF THE SUPPORT GROUP MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH THE CHIEF OF EACH SUBGROUP.

2. ONE OF THE SUPPORT GROUPS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

PAGE 3

SECRET

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11 MAY 1978 BOMB EXPLOSION IN THE SAN MARTIN CULTURAL CENTER.
THE 601ST INTELLIGENCE BATALLION WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
OPERATIONS AGAINST THIS GROUP, SUCCEEDED IN APPREHENDING SOME
OF THOSE INVOLVED.

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3. ONE OF THE ERP SUPPORT GROUPS HAS THE CAPABILITY TO ACT
IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. THIS GROUP DOES NOT HAVE A WORKING RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH THE ERP LEADERSHIP OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH
THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS ARE NOT KNOWN, THREE MEMBERS OF THE

[REDACTED] 4312 S E C R E T [REDACTED]

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GROUP PREVIOUSLY WERE MEMBERS OF THE TROTSKYIST WORKERS PARTY

(PRT) AND THE OTHER 12 WERE MEMBERS OF THE GUEVARIST YOUTH. NONE OF THE MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING. THE GROUP HAS SMALL ARMS, SPECIFICALLY 9 MM BROWNING PISTOLS WHICH WERE STOLEN FROM THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE. THE GROUP ALSO HAS EXPLOSIVES AND THEIR MILITARY SPECIALTY IS THE PREPARATION AND PLACEMENT OF BOMBS. THEY ARE NOT, HOWEVER, USING AMONAL, THE EXPLOSIVE THE ERP USED UNTIL 1977. TO MAKE BOMB ATTACKS MORE SECURE FOR THE ERP TEAM MEMBERS, THE DETONATION MECHANISM HAS BUILT-IN DELAY DEVICE. THE GROUP DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN VEHICLES FOR USE IN OPERATIONS AND INSTEAD USES STOLEN VEHICLES. THE GROUP DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT KIDNAPPINGS. IT DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

[REDACTED]

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1)
- Intelligence Sources and
Methods

PAGE 5 [REDACTED]

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5. ACQ: ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES

HAB-8795

(23, 30 MAY 1978)

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Intelligence Sources and
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POLITICAL MATTERS

REC-46

DE-74

109-12-201-33

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54 JUL 1 3 1978
54

PAGE 2

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REPORT CLASS - ~~SECRET~~ - WNINTEL -

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: ~~PLAN OF PERONIST LABOR LEADERS TO LAUNCH A NEW PERONIST
LABOR MOVEMENT (MSP)~~

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SUMMARY: OLD GUARD PERONIST LABOR LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND LABOR UNIONS OVER THE SENDING OF AN ARGENTINE WORKER DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 1978 STRENGTHENED THE PERONISTS TO THE POINT THAT THEY CAN FORMALLY LAUNCH A NEW PERONIST LABOR ORGANIZATION. THE PERONISTS BELIEVE THAT THEY OBTAINED IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR ARGENTINE LABOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSEMBLY. AMONG THESE CONCESSIONS IS A STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF LABOR THAT LABOR ACTIVITY WILL BE NORMALIZED. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE LABOR UNIONS AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOR TEMPORARILY BROKE DOWN, THE OFFICE OF THE ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL STEPPED IN. END SUMMARY.

PAGE 3

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2. THE INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ARGENTINE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF ON ARGENTINE WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNE 1978 ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) ARE CONSIDERED IN THE MINDS OF THE PERONIST LABOR OLD GUARD (VERTICALISTS) TO HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT TO THE POINT WHERE THEY NOW PLAN FORMALLY TO LAUNCH A NEW ORGANIZATION WHICH THEY WILL CALL THE PERONIST UNION MOVEMENT (MOVIMIENTO SINDICAL PERONISTA - MSP),

USING A NUCLEUS OF VERTICALIST CONTROLLED UNIONS, THE PERONISTS PLAN TO ORGANIZE THE MSP AS SOON AS LABOR DELEGATES RETURN FROM THE ILO ASSEMBLY. THE PERONISTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT UNIONS, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT UNIONS AND THOSE OF THE LARGER INTERVENED UNIONS WHICH REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF WORKERS. WHEN THE LABOR DELEGATES RETURN FROM THE ILO ASSEMBLY, PERONIST REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO TRAVEL TO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY TO SPEAK WITH REGIONAL LABOR REPRESENTATIVES. THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO CONSOLIDATE THE PERONIST LABOR

Argentina

EO25x1

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PAGE 4

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MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA.

*All
Argentina*

3. THE VERTICALIST PERONIST LABOR LEADERS WHO HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE COMMITTEE OF 25, THE GROUP OF LEADERS REPRESENTING 20 NON-INTERVENED UNIONS AND FIVE INTERVENED UNIONS, BELIEVE THAT THEY EXPLOITED THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG DESIRE TO SEND A LABOR DELEGATION TO THE ILO ASSEMBLY TO OBTAIN IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS FROM BRIGADIER GENERAL HORACIO TOMAS LIENDO, MINISTER OF LABOR, AND FROM MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTO VIOLA, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. THESE CONCESSIONS INCLUDE A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM LIENDO THAT THERE WILL BE A NORMALIZATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT; THAT LABOR LEADERS BEING DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES WILL BE RELEASED; AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL FORM LABOR COMMITTEES MADE UP OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR LEADERS TO DIRECT THOSE LABOR UNIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN INTERVENED.

EO25x1

FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC
3024(i)(1) - Intelligence
Sources and Methods

PAGE 5

~~SECRET~~

WWINTEL

EO25x1

PAGE 6

~~SECRET~~

~~WNINTEL~~

EO25x1

6 DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE LABOR LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE OFFICE OF THE ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL WAS FORCED TO STEP IN WHEN LABOR LEADERS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO PRESSURE TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY FROM COLONEL HIPOLITO NUNEZ, THE Argentine GOVERNMENT INTERVENTOR OF THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGT) WHO WAS ACTING IN THE ABSENCE OF MINISTER LIENDO AT AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN TUNISIA. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ARMY SECRETARIAT GENERAL CAUTIONED THE COMMITTEE OF 25 THAT IF THE COMMITTEE REFUSED TO SEND AN ARGENTINE WORKER DELEGATION TO THE ILO ASSEMBLY, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LOSE WHAT GAINS IT HAD MADE SO FAR WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE ARMY REPRESENTATIVES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOME ADDITIONAL TRADE UNION FREEDOM MIGHT BE PERMITTED FOLLOWING THE ILO ASSEMBLY. AS AN ADDED PRESSURE ON THE TOP LEADERS, THE ARMY REPRESENTATIVES PERSUADED SECTION (I.E., UNION LOCAL) LEADERS OF THE IMPORTANT UNIONS, WHO ON THE WHOLE TEND TO RESPOND BETTER THAN THE OLD GUARD TO ARMY EXHORTATIONS AND GUIDANCE, TO ATTEND THE TWO MEETINGS WHICH FIRST APPROVED THE SENDING OF A DELEGATION AND SECONDLY SELECTED THE DELEGATES TO THE

FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1)
- Intelligence Sources and
Methods

PAGE 7 [REDACTED]

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ASSEMBLY.

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FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1)
- Intelligence Sources and
Methods